

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5666

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CU, RQ

SUBJ: 30TH UNGA -- PUERTO RICO IN FOURTH COMMITTEE

REF: (A) USUN, 4867, (B) USUN 5215

1. CUBAN MISSION OFFICER SALADO VILLACIN (SECOND SECRETARY) MENTIONED PUERTO RICO IN PASSING IN A VERY BRIEF STATEMENT ON THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTEREST ITEM IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE ON NOVEMBER 4. SALADO VILLACIN CITED THE US AMONG OTHERS AS A COUNTRY WHOSE ECONOMIC INTERESTS ARE IMPEDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL TERRITORIES. LATER, CITED PUERTO RICO AS OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF A PEOPLE'S ASPIRATIONS TO INDEPENDENCE BEING THWARTED.

2. USUN MISSION OFFICERS AND LEGAL COUNSEL DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THESE PASSING REFERENCES DID NOT WARRANT A REPLY.

3. COMMENT: BASED ON PAST YEARS' FOURTH COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS ITEM, USUN HAD ANTICIPATED A LENGTHY AND VITRIOLIC ATTACK ON US POLICIES IN PUERTO RICO AND HAD PREPARED A STRATEGY TO RESPOND, INCLUDING CONTINGENCY POINTS OF ORDER AND RIGHTS OF REPLY. BASED ON CHAIRPERSON FAMAH JOKA-BANGUA'S ASSURANCES THAT SHE WOULD NOT PERMIT DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE, WE HAD INTENDED TO INTERRUPT THE CUBAN REPRESENTATIVE ON A POINT OF ORDER

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AND ASK THE CHAIRPERSON TO RULE THAT HE NOT ADDRESS PUERTO

RICO, WHICH IS NOT ON THE COMMITTEE'S AGENDA.

4. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE CUBANS MAY HAVE LEARNED OF JOKA-BANGURA'S ATTITUDE ON PUERTO RICO AND FOR THAT REASON DEVIATED FROM THEIR USUAL DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE. (IN THE TWO PAST SESSIONS OF THE GA, FOURTH COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN HAVE RULED AGAINST US REQUESTS TO BAR DISCUSSION OF PUERTO RICO.) OR, THE CUBANS MAY SIMPLY BE HOLDING THEIR FIRE FOR ANOTHER OCCASION IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC INTERESTS ITEM IS WHERE THEY HAVE USUALLY DEVOTED MOST ATTENTION TO PUERTO RICO IN PAST YEARS.

5. A THIRD POSSIBILITY IS THAT CUBA MAY BE BACKING OFF THE PUERTO RICO QUESTION TO SOME EXTENT. SALADO VILLACIN'S STATEMENT WAS MUCH SHORTER THAN IN PAST YEARS, MENTIONED THE US ONLY ONCE IN CONTRAST TO REPEATED, DETAILED AND VITRIOLIC REFERENCES IN PAST YEARS AND MADE A MINIMAL REFERENCE TO PUERTO RICO IN CONTRAST TO MORE DETAILED REFERENCES IN PAST YEARS.

6. IT'S TOO EARLY TO BE SURE WHAT THE REASONS FOR IT WERE, BUT FOR WHATEVER REASONS TODAY'S STATEMENT WAS VERY MILD. MOYNIHAN

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